

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

9 January 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: The War in Vietnam

"12. A VC effort to press the guerrilla war will pose a serious challenge for the allied forces, especially since the strength of the irregulars may have been underestimated in the past. For some years it has been estimated that there were about 100,000-120,000 irregulars, but there is now documentary evidence which strongly suggests that at the beginning of 1965, irregular strength was about 200,000 and that the goal for the end of 1965 was 250,000-300,000. More recent documentary evidence suggests that this goal was probably reached, at least during 1965."

Excerpts from a CIA Memorandum Prepared For

Secretary McNamara

9 January 1967